

Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County
www.advisorycouncil.org

DRAFT

OCTOBER 14, 2003 MONTHLY MEETING

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Present Cleo Corcoran, Martha Becker, Gabe Cohen, Thelma Coney, John Holecek, Adam John, John Kennedy, Will Parry, Larry Low, Alexandra Tu, Lisa Yeager, and Larry Verhei

Excused Timmie Faghin, Helen Spencer, Joanne Brekke, Yolanda Sanchez-Lovato, and Suzanne Wiley

Absent Steve Colwell, and Richard McIver

Guests Angela Smith, Li Chuan Wu, Vivien Teng, Shuping Chang, May Cheng, Marianne Hayden, and Vonne Worth

ADS Staff Pam Piering, Selina Chow, Rosemary Cunningham, Karen Winston, Linda Wells, Margaret Casey, and Ozell Bledsoe

United Way Staff Linda Woodall

MINUTES

Cleo Corcoran, Chair, convened the Advisory Council meeting at 11:00 a.m. Advisory Council Members, ADS Staff and guests were given a guided tour of the Hearing, Speech and Deafness Center (HSDC) by Larry Verhei, Business Development Coordinator. Cleo asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Larry Verhei introduced **Susie Burdick**, HSDC, Executive Director. **Cleo** announced that Suzanne Wiley's husband, Ed Wiley, passed away and provided information about the funeral services. She introduced guest speakers **Karen Lanigan**, M.S., Speech-Language Pathologist and **Michele Hillard**, M.A., Clinical Audiologist.

Program Focus: Hearing and Older People

Karen Lanigan provided information about brain injuries and how cerebral vascular accident or CVA - commonly known as a stroke - may impact a person's speech and cognitive abilities. She emphasized that a stroke victim may experience one or more of the following:

- Aphasia which can affect all language areas including speaking, understanding, reading, and writing in varying degrees.
- Apraxia is a motor planning problem which affects the ability to formulate sounds of speech.
- Dysarthria is a weakness or paralysis of the muscles used for speech and results in

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a person's speech being slurred and difficult to understand.

- Dysphasia is difficulty in chewing and/or swallowing food or liquid as a result of paralysis or weakness of the muscles of the tongue, lips and larynx.

Karen concluded by providing case scenarios of persons suffering from post-stroke speech impediments and how best to communicate with them. She also provided resource information to find out more about how strokes can impact a person's speech and cognitive abilities.

Michele Hillard provided an overview of information and resources designed to identify limitations and maximize the independence of older people suffering from hearing loss including:

- Types of hearing loss in older population: sensorineural, decrease in sensitivity, decrease in speech understanding and not medically treatable hearing loss.
- Hearing aids: different styles and technologies available, funding sources including insurance companies, Medicare (no coverage), Medicaid (based on eligibility), gift aid programs, and trial periods.
- Aural rehabilitation classes: lip reading, communication strategies, assistive listening devices, and understanding your audiogram and hearing aid technology.
- Free hearing screening offered Mondays 1 – 3 pm and free hearing and communications classes beginning in November 2003.
- Assistive listening devices: amplified telephones, smoke detectors, alarm clocks, light flashers, TV amplifiers, pocket talkers and FM systems.
- Communication strategies: use of pocket talkers, facing the person, mouth uncovered/no gum chewing, reduce background noise, good lighting and slow down.

Michelle also demonstrated the features of various assistive devices from the HSDC store including pocket talkers and FM systems.

BUSINESS MEETING

- **Approval of Minutes**

Action Taken: It was moved, seconded and passed that the September 12, 2003 minutes be approved as submitted.

Committee and Task Force Reports:

- **Planning and Allocation**

Thelma Coney

- **Thelma** reported that the Area Plan is approved and has been submitted to the State and the Area Plan is on the website for review. Also **Pam Piering** reported that Marsha King (a Seattle Times writer) has already done several national interviews and is preparing an article on Healthy Aging based on information in the Area Plan.

- **Outreach and Advocacy Committee**

Gabe Cohen

- **Gabe** reported the Outreach & Advocacy Committee discussed the development of a website for community outreach, reviewed priority issues for 2004, and considered advocacy issues for actions including Older Americans Act funding increases, and recommended writing a letter to Washington State Senators in support of increased funding for the Older Americans Act.
- **Gabe** asked members to contact their Congressional Representatives and urge their support for: a drug benefit program that works like Medicare without threaten existing retiree benefits. Seniors do not want to leave Medicare and join a private insurance plan to get prescription drug coverage, and seniors want a voluntary, universal, comprehensive and affordable prescription drug benefit under Medicare. A voice consensus urged that members contact their legislators about these issues.
- **Gabe** reported Outreach & Advocacy and the Health Care Task Force held a joint meeting and considered a draft statement opposing COPES waiting lists. He urged Advisory Council support of the draft statement.

Action Taken: It was moved /seconded and passed that a letter be sent to Washington State Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell urging them to support increased funding of the Older Americans Act and that all Council members are encouraged to send their own personal letters encouraging the Senators' support.

Action Taken: It was moved/seconded and passed that the Advisory Council supports the draft statement opposing COPES waiting lists.

- **Health Care Task Force**

Larry Verhei

- **Larry** reported the HCTF supports HB 2281 to classify hearing aids as prosthetic devices so they will be covered by insurance companies.

- **Nominating Committee**

Larry Verhei

- **Larry** reported that after selecting and contacting each nominee, the Nominating Committee is proposing the following slate of officers for 2004-06:
Chair/Timmie Faghin, Vice Chair/Gabe Cohen, Secretary/Larry Low and At-Large/Lisa Yeager. Everyone has agreed to serve if elected.
- **Cleo** asked for nominations from the floor and **John Kennedy** nominated himself for ***Chair***.

- **Director's Report**

Pam Piering

- **Pam** reported on the W4A Conference Oct 23, 2003 including the conference agenda, keynote speaker, workshop sessions, and elected officials attending the reception.
- **Pam** reported that a request for increased funding for Case Management Programs has been forwarded to the Governor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Day/Date: **Friday, November 14, 2003**

Time: **11:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

Place: **New City Hall**

Boards & Commissions Room L280

700 Fifth Avenue

Seattle, WA 98104

John Kennedy, Secretary /**APPROVED** John Kennedy 10-10-03 Minutes approved as written